

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1526

1. SINCE AP AND UPI STRINGERS ON APRIL 21 FILED TRUNCATED STORIES WITH ONLY BRIEF REFERENCES TO WHAT AMBASSADOR ACTUALLY SAID, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, EMBASSY QUOTES BELOW ITS ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF VERBATIM SPANISH LANGUAGE TRANSCRIPTS OF AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEDIA.

2. INTERVIEW OF APRIL 20 WITH RADIO STATIONS MONTE CARLO, ORIENTAL, UNIVERSAL, CARVE, EL ESPECTADOR, LA RADIO AND TV CHANNEL 4.

(REPORTER) HOW DOES A DIPLOMAT WHO IS ABOUT TO RETIRE VIEW THE RELATIONS BETWEEN URUGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES?

(SIRACUSA) WELL, BASICALLY I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE VERY GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BECAUSE THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR TRADITION. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE OUR PEOPLES BASE THEIR ORIGINS ON THE PRINCIPLES OF JEFFERSON AND ARTIGAS, WHICH ARE VERY SIMILAR, AND WE HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF SINCERE FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION.

RECENTLY, AS WE ALL KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN FRICTIONS, SHALL WE SAY, BECAUSE OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS, PROBABLY REGARDING ONE SUBJECT. BUT I BELIEVE THIS IS SOME-

THING WHICH CAN BE RESOLVED WITH DIPLOMACY AND THE EXISTING GOOD WILL BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

(REPORTER) DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE MISTAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE REAL URUGUAYAN SITUATION?

(SIRACUSA) WELL, IT IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT, PERHAPS, TO KNOW EXACTLY THE REALITY OF A COUNTRY. WE HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO REPORT, WITH PRECISION, THAT WHICH IS ACCURATE. I BELIEVE THAT IN REGARD TO THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, I WOULD ALWAYS LIKE TO EMPHASIZE PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH AT THE OAS LAST WEEK, IN WHICH HE INDICATED A HIGH MORAL CONCEPT REGARDING THIS POLICY AND PRESENTED IT IN A VERY CLEAR TERMS. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE SURELY ALSO SHARED BY THIS GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE IT HAS THE SAME ATTITUDE AND HIGH MORALITY, WHICH REFLECTS ITS PEOPLE.

THIS SURELY WAS INDICATED RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN A SPEECH BY MINISTER DARRACQ AND IN COMMENTS MADE YESTERDAY BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, COMMENTING ON SOME OF THE TACTICS OF THIS POLICY, THAT I BELIEVE THAT SOME PROCEDURES MAY HAVE BEEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, BUT I NOW FEEL VERY ENCOURAGED AFTER HAVING READ THE TESTIMONY OF THE NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MR. TODMAN, AND THAT OF MRS. PATRICIA DERIAN, WHO IS THE NEW STATE DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. I BELIEVE THAT CONCEPTS THEN VOICED IN THEIR TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS ARE VERY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

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3. CHANNEL 12 INTERVIEW OF APRIL 20.

(REPORTER) IN THE LAST MONTHS OF YOUR TOUR AS AMBASSADOR IN URUGUAY SOME WELL KNOWN FRICTIONS HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS A CERTAIN TENSION. WHAT IMPORTANCE DO YOU GIVE TO THIS SITUATION? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE PRACTICAL INFERENCES AND EVENTUAL CONDITIONS IMPLICIT IN THE CURRENT POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT COULD AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND LATIN AMERICA?

(SIRACUSA) THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT. THERE IS NO SECRET. WHAT YOU HAVE NOTED HAS HAPPENED IN THESE PAST MONTHS. BUT IS IS VERY COMPLICATED, VERY DIFFICULT TO ENTER INTO ANY IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO BE RESOLVED BECAUSE THERE IS GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES AND IT IS SOMETHING

WHICH WE CAN CORRECT THROUGH DIPLOMACY. AND ESPECIALLY I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND URUGUAY, WHICH HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF UNDERSTANDING, OF FRIENDSHIP BASED ON THE COMMON ROOTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE SIMILAR IDEAS OF JEFFERSON AND ARTIGAS. THIS IS A FOUNDATION WHICH IS NOT GOING TO BE DIMINISHED BY THINGS WHICH MIGHT BE TRANSITORY. AS TO THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE OAS LAST WEEK MADE VERY CLEAR OUR COMMITMENT TO THE HIGH MORAL CONCEPTS OF THIS POLICY. I BELIEVE THAT THESE CONCEPTS ARE ALSO SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY AND THAT HAS BEEN EVIDENT THROUGH COMMENTS MADE RECENTLY BY MINISTER DARRACQ AND YESTERDAY BY MINISTER ROVIERA AS WELL.

I HAVE INDICATED IN THE PAST THAT I AM NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH SOME METHODS OF APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY THAT, TO ME, HAVE SEEMED SOMEWHAT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, BUT I FEEL VERY ENCOURAGED BY WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER SAID AND ALSO WITH THE DECLARATIONS

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MADE LAST WEEK IN CONGRESS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS TODMAN AND MRS. PATRICIA DARIEN, WHO HAS THE NEW POSITION OF COORDINATOR OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. I BELIEVE THE CONCEPTS EXPRESSED BY THEM ARE VERY GOOD AND ARE GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE.

SIRACUSA

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